

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine having a cylinder head, comprising: at least one metal sheet 0.05 to 0.5 mm thick which is provided with a coating of an elastomer film at least on sides facing outward in at least one sealing area and which has an edge area, said edge area formed by at least one of an outer contour of the cylinder head, a cylinder bore or a water or oil passage in the cylinder head, said edge area adjacent to at least one peripheral self-contained cavity (2), wherein the cavity (2) is filled completely with a hydraulic fluid; and

wherein the cavity (2) is enclosed by at least one bead (3) of the metal sheet (1) and a second metal sheet (4) bridging the bead, which are permanently joined together adjacent to the bead.

18. (Currently Amended) A flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine having a cylinder head, comprising: at least one metal sheet 0.05 to 0.5 mm thick which is provided with a coating of an elastomer film and which has an edge area, said edge area formed by at least one of an outer contour of the cylinder head, a cylinder bore or a water or oil passage in the cylinder head, said edge area adjacent to at least one peripheral self-contained cavity (2), wherein the cavity (2) is filled completely with a hydraulic medium (6);

wherein the metal sheet (1) is flanged back onto itself in the edge area, forming the cavity (2), and is joined permanently connected to itself adjacent to the cavity; and

wherein the metal sheet has at least on sides facing outward from the cavity an elastomer film.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 17, wherein the metal sheet (1) and the second metal sheet (4) are joined in a fluid-tight manner.

21. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 17, wherein in the area of the bead (3) of the metal sheet (1) the second metal sheet (4) has a second bead (5).

22. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 21, wherein the second bead (5) of the second metal sheet (4) has a different design from that of the first bead (3) of the metal sheet (1).

23. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 21, wherein the second bead (5) of the second metal sheet (4) has a profile with a smaller cross section than the first bead (3).

24. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 17, wherein the second metal sheet (4) has a second bead (5) in mirror image to the bead (3) of the metal sheet (1).

25. (Currently Amended) A flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine having a cylinder head, comprising: at least one metal sheet 0.05 to 0.5 mm thick which is provided with a coating of an elastomer film at least on sides facing outward in at least one sealing area and which has an edge area, said edge area formed by at least one of an outer contour of the cylinder head, a cylinder bore or a water or oil passage in the cylinder head, said edge area adjacent to at least one peripheral self-contained cavity (2), wherein the cavity (2) is filled completely with a hydraulic medium (6);

wherein the cavity (2) is enclosed by at least one bead (3) of the metal sheet (1) and a second metal sheet (4) bridging the bead, which are permanently joined together adjacent to the bead; and

wherein a third metal sheet (8) is arranged between the metal sheet (1) and the second metal sheet (4); and the third metal sheet is included in a connection between the first and second metal sheets; the metal sheet (1) and the third metal sheet (8) defining a first portion of the cavity (2), the third metal sheet (8) and the second metal sheet (4) defining a second portion of the cavity (2), the third metal sheet (8) having an orifice such that the first portion and second portion of the cavity (2) on both sides of the third metal sheet are in hydraulic connection (16) with one another.

26. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 25, wherein the third metal sheet (8) in the area of the first bead (3) of the metal sheet (1) and the second bead (5) of the second metal sheet (4) has a third bead (15) having a differently shaped profile.

27. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 26, wherein the first bead (3) of the first metal sheet (1), the second bead (5) of the second metal sheet (4) or the third bead (15) of the third metal sheet (8) are subdivided into at least two partial beads (12).

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine having a cylinder head, comprising: at least one metal sheet 0.05 to 0.5 mm thick which is provided with a coating of an elastomer film at least on sides facing outward in at least one sealing area and which has an edge area, said edge area formed by at least one of an outer contour of the cylinder head, a cylinder bore or a water or oil passage in the cylinder head, said edge area adjacent to at least one peripheral self-contained cavity (2), wherein the cavity (2) is filled completely with a hydraulic medium (6);

wherein the hydraulic medium is liquid at least under operating conditions;
and

wherein the hydraulic medium is formed by a solder.

30. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 17, wherein the hydraulic medium comprises a polymer material that is plastically or elastically deformable at least under operating conditions.

31. (Previously Presented) The flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine according to Claim 30, wherein the polymer material is formed by a thermoplastic, rubber or silicone.

32. (Previously Presented) A cylinder head gasket comprising at least two flat gaskets according to Claim 17.